



2155

**UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants: McLaughlin et al. Attorney Docket: 20206-129 (P01-3725)  
Serial No.: 10/071,579 Group Art Unit: 2155  
Filed: February 28, 2002 Examiner: Sheikh, Ayaz R.  
Title: **METHOD AND PROTOCOL FOR ASSURING SYNCHRONOUS ACCESS  
TO CRITICAL FACILITIES IN A MULTI-SYSTEM CLUSTER**

Box Non-Fee Amendment  
Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

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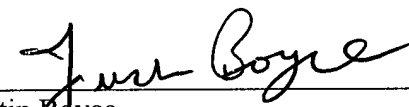
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Date: March 27, 2003

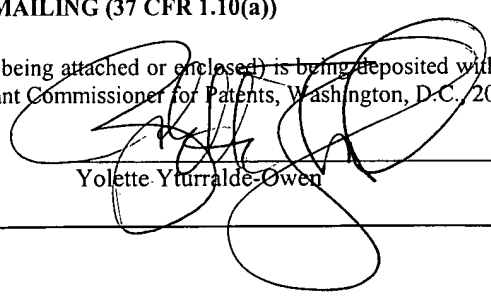
  
Justin Boyce  
Reg. No. 40,920

**OPPENHEIMER WOLFF & DONNELLY LLP**  
CUSTOMER NUMBER 25696  
1400 Page Mill Road  
Palo Alto, CA 94304-1124  
650.320.4000

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# 6/A  
LDS

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**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

Prior to substantive examination of the above-referenced patent application,  
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